

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 369  
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Phil Ponder upon  
being named the 1996 Honoree of the Star  
Spangled Salute.

WHEREAS, it is not often that a community is blessed with a truly dedicated humanitarian such as Phil Ponder of Nashville, who as a businessman, public servant and exemplary citizen has touched the lives of many with his incredible spirit; and

WHEREAS, for many years Phil Ponder has played a leading role in the business and civic life of the Donelson-Hermitage area, Metropolitan Nashville and Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Phil Ponder began his meritorious life in Ocala, Florida, the son of Lester and Onie Ponder; he obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1955, then accepted a call to service in the U.S. Navy, serving as an executive officer from 1956 to 1959; and

WHEREAS, an astute businessman with remarkable leadership skills, Mr. Ponder served Genesco, Inc., in various executive capacities for thirty years; his Genesco career included positions as division manager of Charm Step/Easy Street Shoes, Dominion Shoe Company and the Brazilian Women's Shoe Division; and

WHEREAS, with a passion for painting, what was once a hobby for Mr. Ponder turned into a second career in the late 1970s and early 1980s; using a popular painting technique, the success of his limited edition prints of skylines and famous buildings prompted him to retire from Genesco, Inc., in 1989 and pursue his painting full-time; and

WHEREAS, Phil Ponder's artistic talent and abilities have garnered much praise; his works have been shown by the Central South Art Exhibitions and his watercolor "Atlanta USA"

received the 1994 Griffen Memorial Watercolor Award. Each year he designs the holiday ornaments used by the Easter Seal Society for their fundraising efforts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder has revealed himself as an upholder of the great volunteer tradition of the state of Tennessee by devoting his time and talents to a number of worthy causes, including the Donelson Jaycees, the Donelson-Hermitage Exchange Club, the American Heart Association, the YMCA, Senior Citizens, Inc., the Sheriff's Advisory Committee and the Nashville Electric Service Ethics Committee; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man continues to give unreservedly of himself as president of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of directors of the Luton Mental Health Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder's dedication to his community and state was evident as he ran and was elected to the Metropolitan Nashville Council in District 12 last August; as a council member he lends his expertise to such committees as Budget and Finance, Education, Parking and Traffic and the Greenways Commission; and

WHEREAS, for helping to improve the community and state through his unyielding commitment to the causes that enrich all of our lives, Phil Ponder was recently selected as the 1996 Star Spangled Salute Honoree, benefiting one of his favorite charities, the Donelson Station Senior Citizens Center; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 40 years, Mr. Ponder has enjoyed sharing the many triumphs and joys in life with his wife, Dorothy Connell Ponder, and their four children, Terrie, Rob, Debi, and Stephanie; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this Assembly should provide special recognition to this fine gentleman who has given much of his life to improving the community and state he dearly loves; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,

That we hereby honor and commend Mr. Phil Ponder for his service to the community and the state of Tennessee and congratulate him upon being the 1996 Star Spangled Salute Honoree.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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